

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04624 111558Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-02
SY-05 SAA-01 SES-02 /074 W
-----048047 121956Z /73

R 111519Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9175
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4624

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2,4
TAGS: PINS, SY
SUBJ: CONFLICTING REPORTS ON ASSASSINATIONS OF ALAWITES

REF: DAMASCUS 4599

1. AS USUAL, DAMASCUS RUMOR MILL CHURNING OUT CONFLICTING
REPORTS ON ASSASSINATIONS WHICH OCCURRED AUGUST 10.
INITIAL REPORTS WE RECEIVED, AS REPORTED REFTEL, INDICATED
THAT A SENIOR ALAWITE SECURITY OFFICIAL, LT. COL. AHMAD
KHALIL, WAS ASSASSINATED ALONG WITH TWO OTHER SENIOR
OFFICERS AT SEPARATE LOCATIONS IN DAMASCUS.

2. AFTER FURTHER DIGGING, WE NOW BELIEVE THAT ONLY ONE
ATTACK OCCURRED IN WHICH TWO AND POSSIBLE THREE PEOPLE
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DIED, INCLUDING KHALIL. ACCORDING TO LATEST SCENARIO,
KHALIL, HIS DRIVER, AND SON WERE GUNNED DOWN IN THEIR CAR
IN THE AREA BEHIND THE CENTRAL BANK. THE SON MAY HAVE
ONLY BEEN WOUNDED. ANOTHER RUMOR IS CIRCULATING THAT
COL. AKRAM BALASH, THE HEAD OF THE TRAFFIC POLICE WAS
ASSASSINATED, BUT EMBOFF WHO MET SEVERAL OF BALASH'S
CLOSE FRIENDS YESTERDAY HEARD NOTHING ABOUT IT, AND WE

BELIEVE THAT THE RUMOR STEMS FROM THE CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITIES. THE PRESS HAS REMAINED SILENT ABOUT THE MATTER.

3. IN ANY CASE, THIS IS THE FIRST CONFIRMED KILLING OF A PRO-ASSAD ALAWITE SINCE MID-MAY AND LAYS TO REST CLAIMS BY SECURITY OFFICIALS THAT THEY HAD SUCH MATTERS IN HAND.

4. KHALIL HAD OCCUPIED HIS POSITION AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS AND IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY CLOSE (POSSIBLY EVEN A RELATIVE) TO ASSAD.
SEELYE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ASSASSINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC04624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC ALSO X2
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780330-0953
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780875/aaaackqd.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69def264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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